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no reason why all other similar problems should not be similarly disposed of.

"As to the most difficult question of all—namely, disarmament—nothing can be done unless joint action by all nations of the world is assured; unless it is realized that the interests of humanity are greater than the interests of any one nation.

"If the nations can be persuaded to put away their excessive individualism, if international co-operation becomes a real force, then there is hope that we can establish the machinery which will be an effective safeguard against war, and even diminish and render relatively innocuous the causes of international quarrels."

Home and Foreign News

The National Legislature of France is considering formal offer of Versailles as the capital of the proposed Society of Nations.

The Krupp Gun Company at Essen, announced December 21, that the dividend for the year would be "passed." In 1916 investors received 12 per cent interest on their stock.

In time of war "fake" philanthropies appear. Investigation by the District Attorney of New York of a period covering about one year shows that of 534 organizations appealing for war funds in that city 384 were found fraudulent and were forced to discontinue their activities.

Clark University, Worcester, Mass., has a faculty that unanimously believes in a League of Nations, and passed resolutions to that effect and sent them to Senators Weeks and Lodge.

A chair of South American History and Economics has been founded at the University of Georgia, and the first incumbent will be Guelleme de la Vega of Tucuman, Argentina.

The national assembly of the German-Austrian State on December 19, passed a resolution condemning the "brutality, arrogance and incompetence" of the officers of the Austro-Hungarian Army in the war.

The Committee, which awards the Nobel Peace Prize, is reported from Christiania, as having decided to make no award for the year 1918. President Wilson, it had been thought by some persons, would be the recipient.

Early in December the Swiss Committee for Durable Peace cabled President Wilson to hasten, so far as he could, the assembling of the Peace Conference, as prolongation of the conditions then seen throughout Central Europe threatened the continent with anarchy.

China's delegates to the Peace Conference will ask for a decision forcing Germany to return the ancient bronze astronomical instruments taken in the process of looting Pekin to which the Germans of the Allied forces resorted following the Boxer Rebellion.

Extension on January 1 of facilities for the interchange of news between North and South America was made possible by the Associated Press, which organization hereafter will serve regularly as a medium of communication between the leading papers of the two continents.

An opinion of the Judge Advocate of the United States Army approved by the Secretary of War and holding that officers and enlisted men of the National Guard revert therewith to a civilian status will, if unaltered by a later ruling practically put out of existence the old militia system of the States as it existed prior to the war.

The French High Commission announced, January 8, that approximately 875,000 French soldiers are totally disabled, and that the dead and missing number 1,385,000 men and boys. This estimate includes soldiers that have not been located in German prison camps. The High Commission also announced that France had 7,500,000 men mobilized during the war.

Canada's Government has assented to the treaty recently signed between Great Britain and the republics of Chile and Peru providing for the establishment of a peace commission for the settlement by arbitral and judicial methods of all differences of opinion between them; and making provision for procedure in case any of the British dominions are especially involved in the dispute.

"The American Commission to Negotiate Peace" which is the official title of the group, which President Wilson heads at Paris, announced formally, January 3, that with the glad consent of the other powers Mr. Herbert C. Hoover would become the world's food controller and take charge of an international effort to pool all good resources for the relief and sustenance of civilians and the provisioning of armies.

The Veteran, the official organ of the Great War Veteran Association of Canada, which already has 25,000 members, in its first number said that it not only would publish news and opinions dealing with the specific issues which gave rise to the organization, but that it would fearlessly and strenuously attack all proven abuses in the national administration and life, and lend its independent support to all sane and enlightened policies of reform.

Secretary of War Baker announced, December 23, the discharge from the American army of two officers found guilty of cruel treatment of "conscientious objectors," who had been under their care at the military prison at Fort Leavenworth. He previously, after investigation of complaints, had radically altered methods of discipline in the same institution in so far as they had to do with use of force and imposition of pain on offenders against prison rules.

Georgetown University, D. C., announces that it will establish a new department soon, to be known as the "Foreign Service School," in conducting which it will have the aid of many departments of the United States Government, including the State Department. Youth for the diplomatic, consular, commercial expansion, and foreign educational bureaus of the Government are to be enrolled. Owing to its special affiliations the university has been able to enlist for this school the hearty co-operation of the French Government.

Eighty-two bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States sent a Christmas message to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York urging the Church of England to use its powerful influence with the British Government to induce it to favor extinction of all Turkish authority over Armenia and Armenians. This action was caused by reports that Great Britain intended to resume her policy of protection of Turkey from dismemberment.

The first plank of the reconstructed program of the National Non-Partisan League, in which are enrolled as members so many of the farmers of the Northwest, and an organization that has political power in at least 13 States, reads as follows: "A peace program must be adopted which will make an end to war by creating a world democracy, not by substituting one despotism for another. There must be a United States of the World by consent and not by conquest." This program was adopted early in December.

Admiral Rodman, who commanded the American squadron operating with the British grand fleet in North Atlantic waters, testifying before the House Committee on Naval Affairs, January 3, formally recommended destruction of the capital ships surrendered by Germany. He says that

the Allies have no need of them that warrants their maintenance and upkeep; and that no other reason other than a sentimental one would cause the raising of the flag of the United States on these vessels.

Official estimates from the War Department show that during the year 1918 the United States paid out from the treasury about \$18,160,000,000 to meet its military and naval expense, to furnish cash in the form of loans to governments "associated" with it in combatting and defeating Germany and her allies, and to carry on the non-military activities of the government. The civil government costs amounted to \$1,000,000,000 approximately. The loans totalled \$4,150,000,000, the ship building program \$1,000,000,000; and the remainder was spent for war needs.

Secretary Baker of the War Department, appearing before the House Committee of Military Affairs, January 3, said that plans for permanent organization of the army and its method of recruiting would not be determined upon by him and his advisers until after the details of the Peace Treaty are agreed upon at Paris. He urges the immediate marshalling of a volunteer army of 500,000 men to replace temporarily the army now being demobilized, which feat must be done within four months after signing of the treaty of peace, according to present law.

Premier Clemenceau, on December 18, had presented to him the following formal action by the French Association for a Society of Nations: "The allied nations each shall, before the negotiation of peace, openly and solemnly affirm the principles of justice and right for which they have fought and which they are determined to apply in the treaty. Conditions and fundamental regulations for the organization of a Society of Nations shall be settled; the allies shall bind themselves to observe them among themselves forthwith and forever. The treaty of peace shall include the obligations to which the allies submit for the maintenance of peace, notably obligatory arbitration and limitation of armaments."

President Wilson's New Year's Greeting from the city of Washington was a message from fifty-nine of the leading merchants of the capital city, who said: "We of Washington, at the dawn of the New Year, salute you. May your vision of a world peace take early shape and substance in reality. In council, may yours be the pleasurable honor, as masterspokesman of democracy, of friendly-spirited dominance. And may there be granted you safe voyage, when on the high seas homeward bound, and heaping measure of happiness and good cheer, continuing throughout the year, on your return to this the International Capital."

The Commission on Training Camp Activities, of which Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick has been the head and which has done so much to create and preserve a high morale among the men of the American army, relinquished its executive functions, January 1, but will continue to act as an advisory agent with the War Department. Many of its activities will continue during the period of demobilization and the best of its methods will be incorporated into the permanent military establishment. The Third Assistant Secretary of War, Frederick W. Keppel, formerly dean of Columbia University, New York City, will supervise this work.

With the Imperial German Government's archives in the possession of the radical and non-monarchical forces that have ruled Berlin since the armistice, it has been quite natural for the opportunity to be used as a time of investigation, just as it has in Bavaria, and with the same general result, namely disclosure of correspondence dealing with the war which does not harmonize with the official statements of the Berlin officials when trying to win the world's approbation for their policy. Herr Kautsky, who has had charge of the Berlin investigation, says that history will place responsibility for the continuance of the war: 1. Upon the Kaiser and the Crown Prince; 2. Upon Ludendorff and Von Tirpitz; 3. Upon the industrial magnates; 4. Upon the pan-Germans.

Important to the diplomatic efficiency and to the intelligent internationalism of the United States is the favorable report of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on an appropriation of \$3,000,000 for the construction of U. S. Embassies in some of the leading capitals of the world. If endorsed by the Senate as well as by the House the law will begin to alter a situation far from creditable to the republic and long since recognized as such, but needing apparently the events of the past four years to teach Congress that it is time for the United States to be consistent in its manners, modes of living and treatment of its servants abroad—that is, consistent with its high resolves and its increasing power as a nation among nations.

An appeal on December 24 to Secretary of War Baker was made by relatives and sympathizers with "conscientious objectors" now serving long sentences in the disciplinary barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., their appeal being supplemented by a petition with 15,000 signatures and a formal request for release from the prisoners themselves. The Secretary announced that it was a problem that in the last analysis rested for its solution with the President; that the War Department was studying the problem; and that, broadly-speaking, a solution probably would have to be gained by dealing with individual cases and not by a wholesale pardon or diminution of period of sentence.

Distorted reports from Paris, appearing in the *Chicago Tribune*, led President Wilson, on December 9, to send word to the United States that he had not committed himself to support of the plan of the League to Enforce Peace for a society of nations. On December 10 the officials of this society issued the following statement: "President Wilson's statement cabled from Paris that he never indorsed 'the particular plan of the League to Enforce Peace needs no corroboration. The league never sought any such indorsement. It must be plain to every one that it would have been unwise and undiplomatic for the head of the nation to commit himself to any specific plan for an international settlement before the Peace Conference meets. The League to Enforce Peace would have been the last to urge the President to hamper our peace delegates by premature indorsement of our platform or any other."

The Church Peace Union, with signers from Christian (Protestant and Roman Catholic), and Jewish bodies, cabled from New York City to President Wilson the following message soon after he arrived in Paris: "We, trustees of the Church Peace Union, assembled at our annual meeting, send you our heartiest good wishes on the great quest that you have undertaken and express the hope that you, together with the statesmen of the nations with which the United States is associated, may succeed in the noble effort to establish world peace on a righteous basis, which will be guaranteed by a league of free nations to make possible a new world order of justice. In the accomplishment of this task we believe that you will be sustained by the Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant conscience of the American people, and we pledge you our loyal support and offer our earnest prayer that you and your associates may have the guidance of Almighty God."

The manifesto to the electors of Great Britain and Ireland, issued by Lloyd-George and Bonar Law, on which they stood as a party platform in the recent election, a contest in which they won, had this to say about the Paris Conference and British national policy: "Our first task must be to conclude a just and lasting peace, and so to establish the foundations of a new Europe, that occasion for further wars may be forever averted. The brilliant and conclusive triumph of the allied armies will, we hope, render it possible to reduce the burden of our armaments and to release, by successive and progressive stages, the labor and capital of the empire for the arts of peace. To avert a repetition of the horrors of war, which are aggravated by the onward march of science, it will be the earnest endeavor of the Coalition Government to promote the formation of a League of Nations which may serve, not only to insure society against the calamitous results of militarism, but to further a peaceful mutual understanding between the associated peoples."

France announced, January 9, that her delegates to the Peace Conference would be Georges Clemenceau, Prime Minister; Stephen Pichon, Foreign Minister; M. Klotz, Minister of Finance; Andre Tardieu, High Commissioner to the United States; Jules Cambon, former French Ambassador to Germany; Marshal Foch, as generalissimo of the allied armies. M. Du Taste, French Minister to Switzerland, will act as secretary to the French peace delegation.

The same day the British Cabinet appointed the following delegates: David Lloyd-George, Prime Minister; Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer; George B. Barnes, labor leader and member of the War Cabinet. For the Colonies: Premier Hughes, of Australia; Premier Borden for Canada; Premier Botha for the Union of South Africa.

Following the announcement that Mr. Arthur Henderson and others of the leaders of labor in Great Britain hoped to make the coming conference at Lausanne, Switzerland, a time when something like agreement on an international standard of living and of wage could be gained, Mr. Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, announced that it was doubtful whether American trades-unionism would turn its affairs over to an international committee armed with nominal power to enforce any such standard. "The best way to internationalize standards of working people is to first establish American standards," he said, adding, "Any other system of internationalization means that the American worker must surrender gains made or the American worker must postpone further gains until workers in continental Europe reach his present standards. The American worker will accept no such principle, regardless of any decision that may be made at the Peace Conference."

Count Romanones, the Spanish Premier, who had a conference in Paris the latter part of December with President Wilson, as well as with the French and Italian prime ministers, is a friend of the Entente Powers and the United States. Subsequent developments have indicated that Spain and France are likely to come to a new agreement as to Morocco, and that British and Spanish differences of opinion as to territory having strategic value for both countries may be composed as one result of the coming conference in Paris. The separatist movement in Spain has taken on acute form, especially in Catalonia; and already the National government has been forced to make concessions that prior to the war were denied. Whether the ultimate relation of the Catalonian region to the nation will be close or loose, remains to be seen. Provincial and national statesmen and jurists are busy now in drafting modes of settlement that will differ.

Pope Benedict XV, in a special message to the United States, issued on New Year's Eve, said: "In this solemn moment, when a new era in the history of the world is about to begin, we pray that the Almighty may shed His light upon the delegates who are meeting in Paris to settle the fate of mankind, and especially upon President Wilson as the head of the noble nation which has written such glorious pages in the annals of human progress."

"May the conference be of such a nature as to remove any resentment, abolish forever wars among brothers, establish harmony and concord and promote useful labor. Out of the Peace Conference may there be born the league of nations which, by abolishing conscription, will reduce armaments; which, by establishing international tribunals, will eliminate or settle disputes; which, placing peace upon a foundation of solid rock, will guarantee to every one independence and equality of rights."

While President Wilson was in Manchester, England, he was presented with the following petition, similar in tenor to many which he received ere he left the United States. It read: "We, the Irish clergy, numbering 2,000, and the Irish laity, to the number of 2,000,000, resident in Great Britain, respectfully appeal to you, who are the acknowledged arbiter of the world's freedom today, and in whose hands under God we feel the future happiness of every country lies, to secure that Ireland, which rightly regards herself, and has ever

regarded herself, as a nation, should be specially represented at the Peace Conference by delegates from her own people in the hope that the sense of justice of all the Allies might thus be brought to bear on her centuries-old problems, and to bring about their only satisfactory solution.

"We further appeal to you so to use your unique influence, that your own righteous principles of self-determination may be applied to Ireland and thus effect not only her peace, but the peace of England as well."

The executive committee of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America at its annual session, December 12, cabled to President Wilson the following despatch, announcing its endorsement of the plan for a League of Free Nations. "Such a league" it said, "is not a mere political expedient. It is rather the political expression of the Kingdom of God on earth. The Federal Council calls upon all Christians and upon all believers in God and lovers of man to work and pray with whole souls that out of the ashes of the old civilization may rise the fair outlines of a new world based on a Christian ideal, justice, cooperation, brotherhood and service." The committee also decided to request its own commission on Inter-Church Federations to stress as one of the major elements of its immediate program the establishment by each local inter-church federation of a strong and active department on International Justice and Good Will; and to urge on all such local federations to provide community courses of study in regard to the nature, functions and program of a League of Nations. Sunday, January 12, also was named as a day when pastors of all churches of all denominations were to make the reform a matter of special supplication and prayer.

As the year 1918 closed, the League of the Rights of Man, a renowned organization of French Liberals, demanded the application of the following principles to the decisions of the Peace Conference:

"(1) Before the peace treaty a solemn collective declaration by the allied nations affirming the principles for which they fought and fixing the fundamental conditions of the organization of a universal league of nations containing a pledge to observe between themselves all provisions of this statute and to renounce all private alliances.

"(2) In the peace treaty the insertion of an article imposing on all the signatory states the same obligations to which the Allies agreed, notably the obligation to respect effectively the right to self-determination; to settle all present and future conflicts by legal means and excluding all resort to force; the obligation to conform to the rules which the league of nations will make for disarmament and for control of military budgets; the interdiction of secret treaties, and the abolition of war.

"(3) Finally after the peace treaty the convocation of a universal conference which will frame the constitutional charter of the league of nations, to create the means for insuring its action and to pass on the admission to the league of all states fulfilling the conditions of the charter after carefully examining the credentials."

Belgium's Foreign Minister announced, December 10, that the nation's claims at the Peace Conference would be directed not only against Germany but also against Holland, especially as the latter controls the lower Scheldt. On December 31, the Prime Minister, Finance Minister, and the Colonial Minister of Belgium, returned from London where they had been in conference with the British Cabinet, and they announced that financial arrangements pending the peace treaty and the payment of indemnities by Germany had been arranged between the two governments. As to Belgium's future colonial possessions, Louis Franck, the Colonial Minister, said: "Our concern is the preservation of the absolute integrity of our own colonial territory. This matter we leave with confidence to the great powers. In my view, the African colonies can only be great in the measure that the economic moral conditions of the people are steadily im-

proved. Belgium's policy is to do everything possible in that direction and to maintain the best relations with the neighboring colonies. War has had a favorable and stimulating effect on production in the Congo, as in all countries producing war material. Trade and private enterprise are developing and introduction of currency has proved a great success with the natives. Our copper mines are also developing. I look forward to the colonial future with confidence and to the satisfactory solution of difficulties inseparable from the transition period."

It has been intimated that Great Britain stands ready to pay cash to Belgium for her African possessions, and that the sum received by Belgium would be large enough to substantially assist her, not only in meeting her current needs as a government, but also in reducing her interest charges on loans made to her by friendly Powers.

Assyrian Christians, resident in the United States, have sent to the Paris Peace Conference competent spokesmen for their cause, who will ask:

"1. The elimination of the Mohammedan rule from Mesopotamia, both Turkish and Arabic; because the Mohammedans have shown themselves unfit to govern justly and incapable to adapt themselves to modern democracy and civilization.

"2. The inclusion of the provinces of Karput and the Diarbekir in Mesopotamia.

"3. The placing of Mesopotamia under the control of America, England, and France until such time as the natives shall be able to govern themselves independently.

"4. The designation of the government of Mesopotamia as the government of Ashur or Beth Nahrin. The government shall be the government of all the inhabitants of Mesopotamia without distinction of race or creed.

"5. Complete freedom in matters of religion and entire separation of church and State.

"6. The placing of Assyrian Christians in the higher governmental positions; first, because Mesopotamia has been freed by Christian blood; two, because the Christians are progressive and adaptable to modern democracy and civilization.

"7. The indemnification of the Christians of Mesopotamia; first, the restoration of churches, monasteries, and schools destroyed; second, the restoration of property stolen or destroyed and of women and children taken away; third, the punishment of those who instigated the atrocities.

"8. That temporarily, Arabic shall be the official language of Mesopotamia, Syriac, and English shall be the prescribed language in the curricula of the schools, and ultimately Syriac shall be the official language.

"9. That Mosul shall be the capital of Beth Nahrin."

Word came to the State Department in Washington, early in January, that the Serbo-Croato-Slovene compact had been signed in a document which supplements the agreement of July, 1917, made at Corfu and the later understanding arrived at in Rome in 1918. In the evolution of the new State the coming in of Montenegro of course means much; and the text of her assent is found in the appended document:

"In compliance with the decision of the Central Committee of the National Council of Zagreb (Agram) representing the State of all Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes from the former Austro-Hungarian monarchy, a special delegation was sent by that body to Belgrade on December 1. By a solemn address presented to His Royal Highness the Prince Alexander, the delegation proclaimed union into a single State of all Serb, Croat, and Slovene people of the former Dual Monarchy with the kingdom of Serbia, under the reign of His Majesty the King Peter and the regency of Prince Alexander.

"In reply to the address presented to him, H. R. H. the Prince Alexander proclaimed union of Serbia with the said independent State of the Slovenes, Serbs, and Croats into a single kingdom, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. His Royal Highness declared that he accepts the regency of that kingdom, and that he will form a single government.

"On December 17, 1918, His Royal Highness has received likewise the delegation of Montenegro. This delegation presented to him the decisions of the great National Assembly

of the Kingdom of Montenegro, voted November 26. By these decisions His Majesty the King Nicholas and his family are declared to have forfeited all their claims to the throne of Montenegro; the Kingdom of Montenegro is proclaimed united with Serbia under the dynasty of Karageorgevitch, and by the fact of the said union enters also the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

"His Royal Highness the Prince Alexander declared that he accepts this decision with a grateful emotion.

"A single and common government of the new kingdom has been formed on December 21. The legations, consulates, and other commissions of the Kingdom of Serbia abroad have become the legations, consulates, and commissions of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes."

WHAT MEN AND WOMEN SAY

We have separated ourselves from the former Kaiser, and now desire only that guilt for the outbreak of the war be finally fixed, in order that he may be exposed, once for all."—Premier Friederich Ebert, interview December 17.

My reception in Paris has been so tremendous that it is difficult to express my emotion. My principal feeling has been impersonal. It could not be duplicated in a lifetime.—President Wilson, December 18.

Don't let molly coddles and sissy bobs run this country. We want to be prepared to lick h— out of any enemy, and universal training will fix us up.—Gov. Harding of Iowa, in a speech at Chicago, December 14.

If I had to choose between two dictatorships I should prefer the dictatorship of liberal or conservative educated men to a dictatorship by a madman.—Phillip Schiedemann, in a Berlin interview, December 18, referring to the actions of the "Spartacus" group led by Liebknecht.

The day of isolation of the United States has passed for good or for ill. I profoundly believe it is for the good. This republic must concern itself with every problem that touches the peoples of every portion of the world.—Secretary Daniels of the Navy at the Southern Commercial Congress, December 12.

I venture the assertion that the good will which now exists between the allied governments and ours will not last five years, unless our reciprocal trade relations, fixed in justice, are arranged between us.—Thomas R. Marshall, Vice-President of the United States, address before the Carlisle, Pa., Chamber of Commerce, December 21.

Nor let us forget, in our efforts to solve social and political problems, that no expediency, nor ardor for improvement, will save us from ruin if we copy the Teuton and forget the deep instinct of the heart for justice. — Viscount Uchida, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan, at a banquet given in Tokio celebrating the signing of the armistice.

The American "doughboy" is different from any soldier on earth. On the battlefield he is the roughest customer that the war brought to France. Off the battlefield he is the most humane of all soldiers. — Edwin L. James, message from Coblenz to New York *Times*, describing the temper and acts of the American "Army of Occupation."

Our men are not going to come back hating the Germans. No man who has been in the line facing the Germans will bear any malice toward them. I know that if any American infantryman met the Kaiser on the road he would be willing to share his hard tack with him. This is not a false sentiment.—Lt. Colonel Chas. W. Whittlesey, U. S. A., commander of the "Lost Battalion" in the Argonne fight, in an address in New York City, December 15.

What drove us to conscription has been the existence of conscript armies on the continent which inevitably rushed